STILETTO HEELS TEAM

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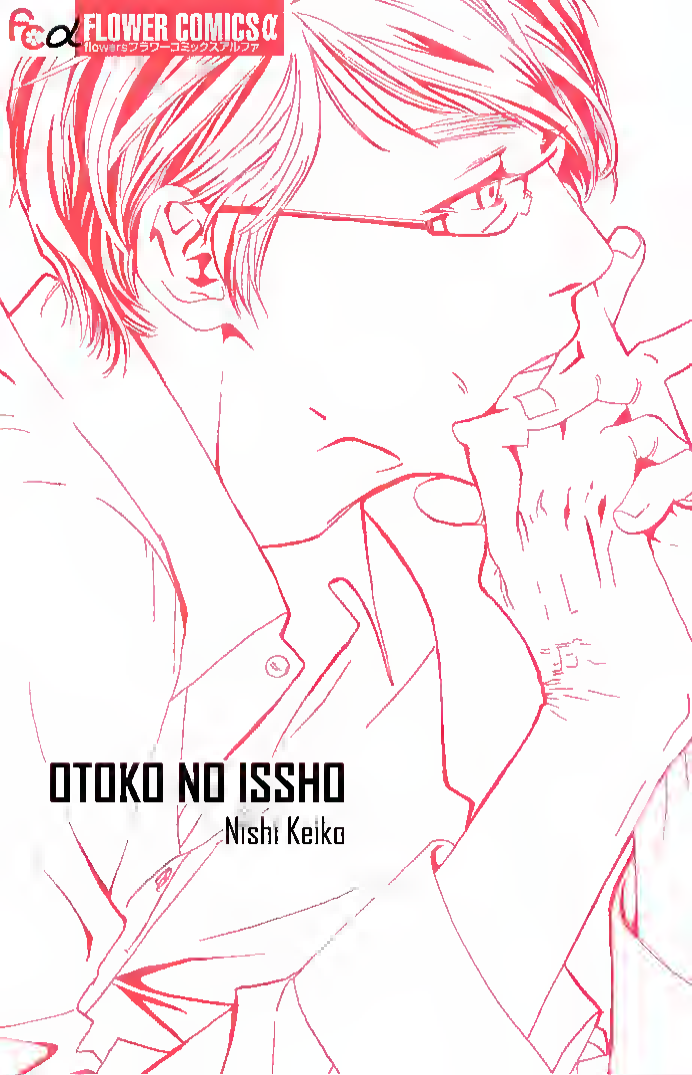
VOLUME 1, CH. 1

FLOWER COMICS α
flowersフラワーコミックスアルファ



OTOKO NO ISSHO

Nishi Keiko

OTOKO NO ISSHO ①

NISHI KEIKO PRESENTS

＊flowersフラワーコミックスα＊

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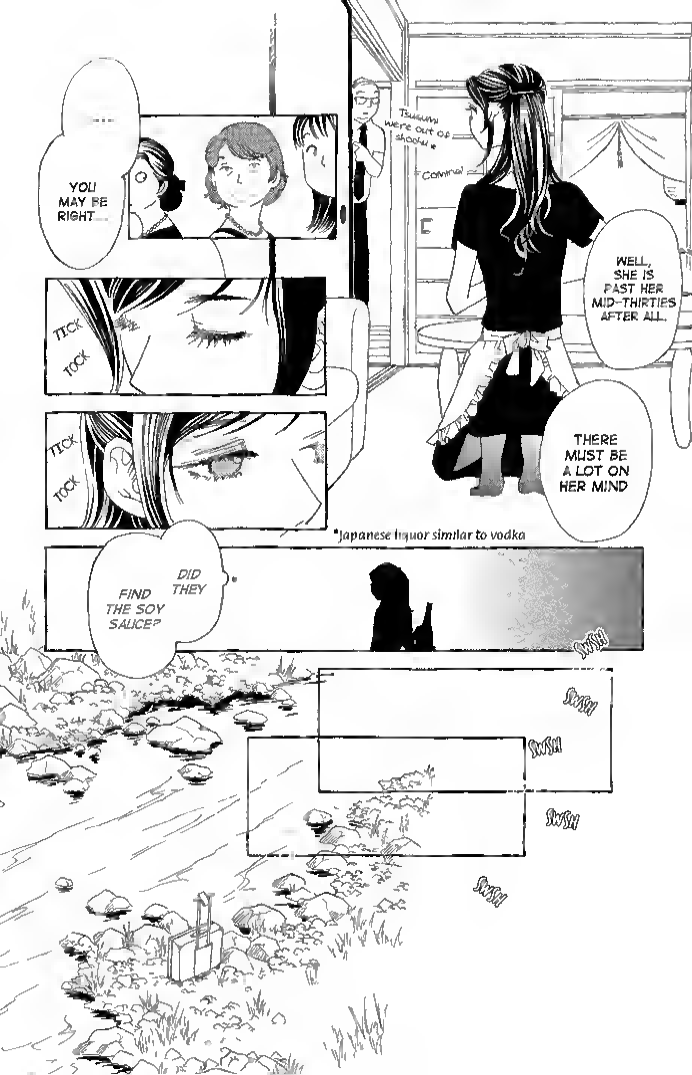
Oh my
TSUGUMI-CHAN HOW YOU'VE GROWN! I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU
Miss Towa Shimoyashiki
Hahaha
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, GREAT-GRANDMA.
DID YOU COME FROM TOKYO LAST NIGHT?
UM... NO I WAS HERE SINCE A MONTH AGO
EH?
BUT ELDER SISTER TOWA WAS ONLY HOSPITALIZED SINCE THE SPRING
UM...

Chapter 1 - Fruneal

WE'RE OUT OF SOY SAUCE.

SHOULD I GO OUT AND BUY SOME?
YES, PLEASE?
OH.
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR SOY SAUCE THERE ARE NEW ONES IN THE STORAGE ROOM
I SEE
So I no longer have to go?
SHE SAID SHE RETURNED A MONTH AGO
FOR WHAT REASON?
MAYBE KYOUKO KNOWS WHY...
Who wants watermelon?
Ah!

WHEN I ARRIVED YESTERDAY,
EVERYTHING FROM THE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE FOOD PREPARATIONS WAS ALREADY ATTENDED TO
TSUGUMI WAS THE ONLY ONE HERE
SHE'S TOO QUICK-WITTED
IT WOULDN'T HURT FOR HER TO BE A LITTLE CARELESS
KYOUKO, WHY DID TSUGUMI COME HOME?
DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA...
TSUGUMI HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MODEL STUDENT. SHE WOULD NEVER DO THAT
You can quit at either 1 quit at 3 it's okay
I wanna quit at 1
SO FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH...
SHE STAYED IN THIS HOUSE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF HER PARENTS OR ANYONE ELSE
THEN THAT MEANS...
IT COULD BE THAT SHE QUIT HER JOB
QUIT YOTSUBA ELECTRONICS? THERE'S NO WAY SHE WOULD!
Like what?


YOU MAY BE RIGHT...
TICK TOCK
TICK TOCK
Tsuuuuu we're out of shochu *
Commit
WELL, SHE IS PAST HER MID-THIRTIES AFTER ALL.
THERE MUST BE A LOT ON HER MIND
*Japanese liquor similar to vodka
DID THEY FIND THE SOY SAUCE?
SWISH!
SWISH!
SWISH!
SWISH!

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SLOSH

...
AH
...
NICE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING
KOU
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

I HAD NO IDEA
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE, SIS?
NO ONE IN THE FAMILY KNEW ABOUT IT
EVERYONE'S SURPRISED
ABOUT A MONTH AGO
WHY? WHAT ABOUT THE COMPANY?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE QUIT?
NO. I'M CURRENTLY ON VACATION
THE WORLD-RENOWNED YOTSUBA MUST BE A CRADLE FOR LUXURY!
THIS COLOR IS CALLED LAPIS LAZULI
YOU BET TO SHOW EVERYONE THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES CAN USE UP THEIR PAID HOLIDAYS
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN DYE THE COLOR THIS BEAUTIFULLY
SIS, TELL ME THE TRUTH,
WERE YOU PLANNING TO LIVE HERE WITH GRANDMA?
NO...

SHIMO-YASHIKI-SAN WAS AN IMPORTANT RESEARCH PARTNER TO ME.
WHEN I CALLED GRANDMA AT THE HOSPITAL, SHE SAID, "SUIT YOURSELF."
MOM, WHAT DOES PARTNER MEAN?
SOMEONE WHO HELPS YOU DO SOMETHING.
THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST I WAS WATCHING TV WHEN I RECEIVED A CALL FROM THEM.
I WAS FREE DURING THIS MONTH SO I RODE MY BIKE TO AND FROM THE HOSPITAL.
THE THOUGHT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND
THIS IS MY FIRST LONG VACATION.
SO I WANTED TO COME TO A QUIET PLACE WHERE I COULD LET MY HAIR DOWN
TH-
SHE HAD PNUEMONIA-LIKE SYMPTONS BEFORE THAT

THEY TOLD ME...
HER CONDITION TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE
SHE CRIED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE... BUT...
HUFF...
Haa...
IT WAS SO SUDDEN...
I FIGURED IT'D BE JUST LIKE HER USUAL HOSPITAL STAY
YOU SEE SHE HAD STARTED STRAINING HER BODY EVER SINCE SHE BEGAN WORKING IN THE FIELD AGAIN...
BUT IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND, SIS...
NOBODY WOULD HAVE BEEN WITH HER IN THE END
I SUPPOSE SO
MAYBE SHE WAS BECKONING TO YOU
YOU THINK SO?

SHINOBU-SAN
SINCE YOUR ELDER SISTER IS HERE. YOU SHOULD TREAT HER TO A MEAL
IN A LITTLE WHILE
WOW SO YOU CAN EAT RAW FISH NOW?
YEAH
I M STARVING LET S HAVE SUSHI
OH, YEAH
HMM
IS IT YOUR TIME OFF YET?
BUT I NEVER KNEW THAT SHE LEFT YOU WITH THE KEYS. DID SHE ASK YOU TO?
NO
SHE JUST TOSSED THEM AT ME WHEN I CAME TO VISIT THREE YEARS AGO
HEY
I REMEMBER THIS. IT WAS WHEN I ATE TOO MUCH CORN DURING OBON

ASAO, YOUR FAMILY HAS A LOT OF PICTURES FROM OBON AND NEW YEARS
SAY, SHINOBU?
YOU COULD SAY IT WAS A CUSTOM TO TAKE PHOTOS DURING THOSE FESTIVALS
GRANDPA HAD THIS OLD CAMERA
I JUST NOTICED THIS,
BUT DID THEY MAKE ALL THREE OF US WEAR THE SAME KIMONO DURING OUR SHRINE VISIT?
YOU ONLY NOTICED THAT NOW?
HUH?
TSUGUMI'S HER FIRST GRANDCHILD SO SHE OBVIOUSLY WENT ALL OUT FOR HER
SO WE GOT THE HAND-ME-DOWNS
IT'D BE A WASTE OTHERWISE
Every family's like anyone else's!
I DON'T CARE IF IT WAS CHEAP
AS LONG AS IT WAS MY OWN
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS IMPLYING, ELDER BROTHER
EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE THREAD IS CUSTOM-MADE
WE EVEN RECEIVED A WREATH* FROM MINAMI-GO TAILORS
YEAH
IT WAS WHITE SO I DIDN'T REALIZE IT

*The wreath Shinobu is talking about here is most likely a funeral wreath sent in by friends and family

I DON'T HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THE UPPER FIELD
BUT TO BE HONEST, EVEN IF IT HAS A CHEAPER VALUE I'D LIKE TO HAVE THE FIELDS IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE
I'VE TALKED TO MOT-HER ABOUT THAT BEFORE
IT HOLDS THE MOST MEMORIES FOR ME
THEN JUST FOLLOW THE WILL.
FRANKLY, I'D BE HAPPIER IF I GET TO TAKE THE UPPER FIELDS INSTEAD
BUT IT'S IN HER WILL, SO THERE'S NO USE FIGHTING IT RIGHT, KYOUKO?
KYOUKO'S INHERITING THE SMALLEST PORTION, BUT IT'S THE EASIEST TO SELL
SO IT'S ALREADY BEGUN...
This is the first time I've ever seen an other tense meeting
PLOP
UM, YES I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE THE KIDS HAPPY
HERE'S THE ICE
Prepared heaps of ice
DID YOU HARVEST THE WATER-MELON FROM THE FIELDS TOO?
YES...
THEN, SHOULD WE SERVE BARLEY TEA?
DID YOU BREW THIS LAST NIGHT?
These don't look instant
OKAY
BETTER NOT TO BRING OUT ANY MORE WINE

TSUGUMI YOU'RE TOO PRUDENT
THERE'S NO HARM IN LETTING LOOSE.
ARE YOU DATING ANYONE?
Hehe
NO
DON'T YOU WANT TO? AND I DON'T WANNA HEAR,
"I'M OKAY WITH BEING SINGLE."
WELL,
NEVER-MIND. IT IS YOUR LIFE AFTER ALL.
You're always deciding everything on your own, Elder Brother!
We're not kids anymore.
...
THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.
NONE OF US REALLY WANT THE LAND
JUST THINK, YOU LIVE IN NAGOYA, AND I'M IN SENDAI.
MY YOUNGEST SON, MASARU IS IN AMERICA AND HAS NO PLANS OF COMING BACK HERE.
THERE'S PRACTICALLY NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS PLACE.
CLUNK
NOW, NOW, LET'S NOT FIGHT ON THE DAY OF THE FUNERAL.
WHY'S DAD FIGHTING FOR IT THEN?
THEY ARE NOT FIGHTING
BUT THEY ARE SHOUTING
TAP TAP TAP

LET HER KEEP HER JOB
TSUGUMI IS ONE OF THE BACKBONES OF THE JAPAN'S TECHNOLOGY
NO
I HAVEN'T BEEN VERY LUCKY...
YOU'RE NOT MARRIED YET, TSUGUMI-CHAN?
UM NO
NO?
ANY GOOD PROSPECTS?
SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE DOESN'T SHE?
SHE CAN'T GO ON BEING SINGLE FOREVER THE GIRL NEEDS A HUSBAND...
LET THE GIRL DECIDE ON HER OWN MATTERS
DOES SHE PLAN ON GETTING HITCHED WITH THE POWER PLANT?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY SHE'S STILL ALONE AT HER AGE
ANYWAY SPEAKING OF HER LAST WILL,
THIS IS A LETTER WE FOUND IN HER DRESSER
THAT'S TRUE
PERHAPS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DECIDE ON THE 49TH DAY*
I TOLD YOU, I WON'T LET YOU HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
NOW, NOW JUST TAKE IT EASY...

*Forty-ninth day after a person's death

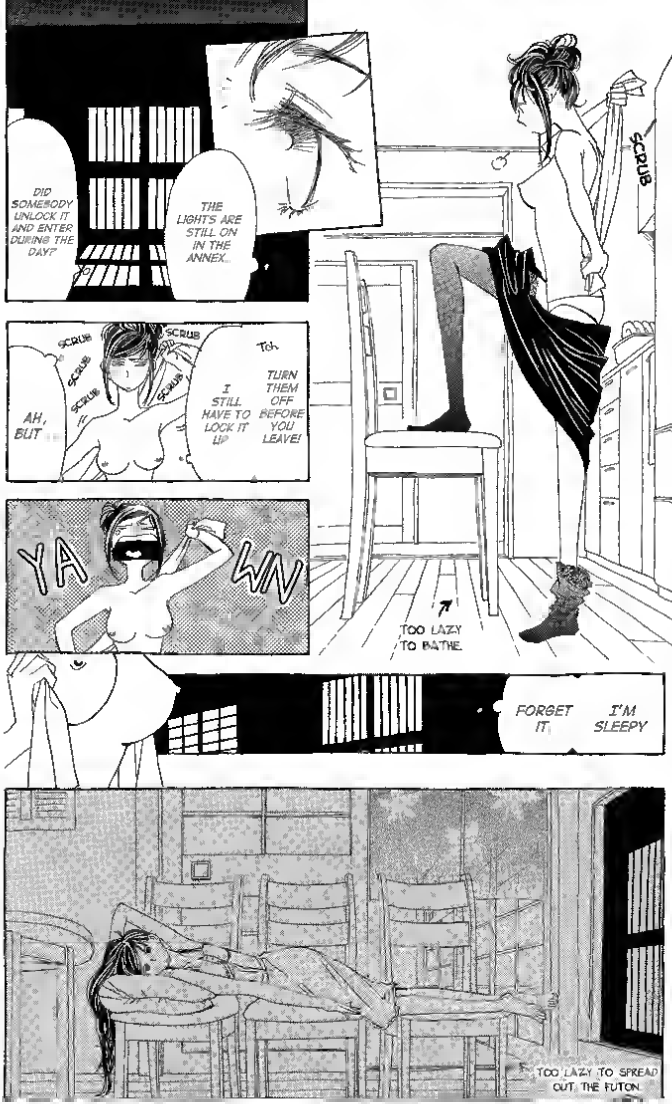
Phew! Settle it already!
ALL IN ALL, WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT DIRT-CHEAP LAND HERE.....
I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE EITHER!
EXCUSE ME.
That's right.
They're definitely fighting.
Won't the bullet train be here soon?
Yeah.
Are they arguing?

I'LL...
BUY IT
ALL OF GRANDMA'S LAND.
THE HOUSE,
THE MOUNTAIN,
AND THE FIELDS

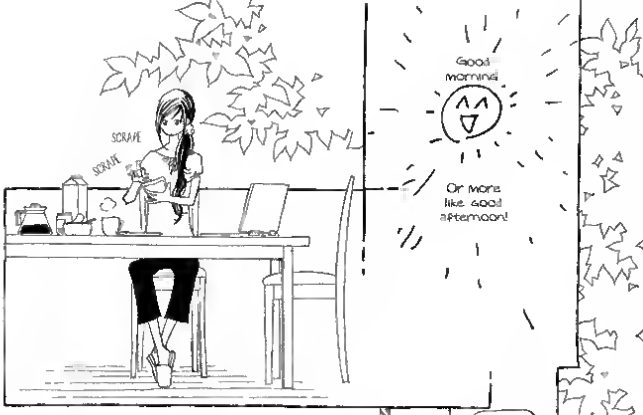
OKAY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED HELP IN CLEANING THIS AREA UP?
BE CAREFUL OUT HERE.

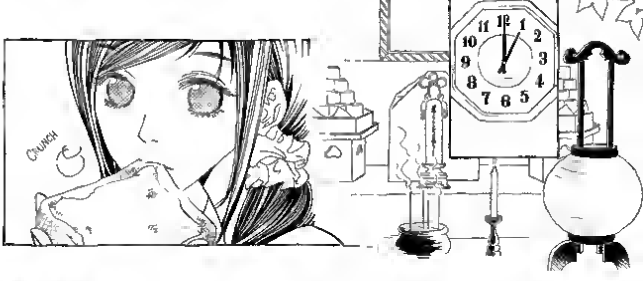
I'LL GO AT IT SLOWLY
I WORKED MY BUTT OFF THESE PAST THREE DAYS OF THE FUNERAL
CLEANING UP WILL DEFINITELY HELP ME UNWIND
SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN, JUST DROP ME AN EMAIL OR GIVE ME A CALL.
TSUGUMI
YOU'RE HER GRANDCHILD AFTER ALL
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT
I'M SORRY, DAD...
SO YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE?
GLANCE
YES...
THEN, GO ON, AND STAY.
WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR HOUSE EMPTY,
AND YOU HAVE THE KEYS
JUST BE MINDFUL OF FIRES, AND ALWAYS FASTEN THE LOCKS, OKAY?
OKAY...

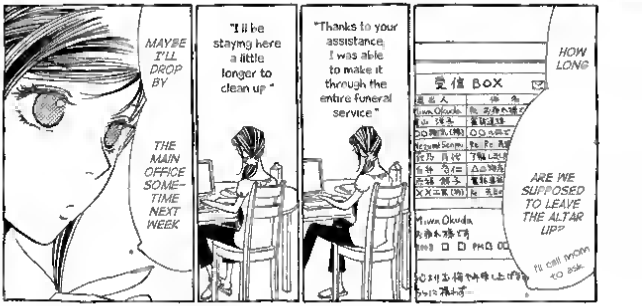
...PH
EW~...
SCRUB

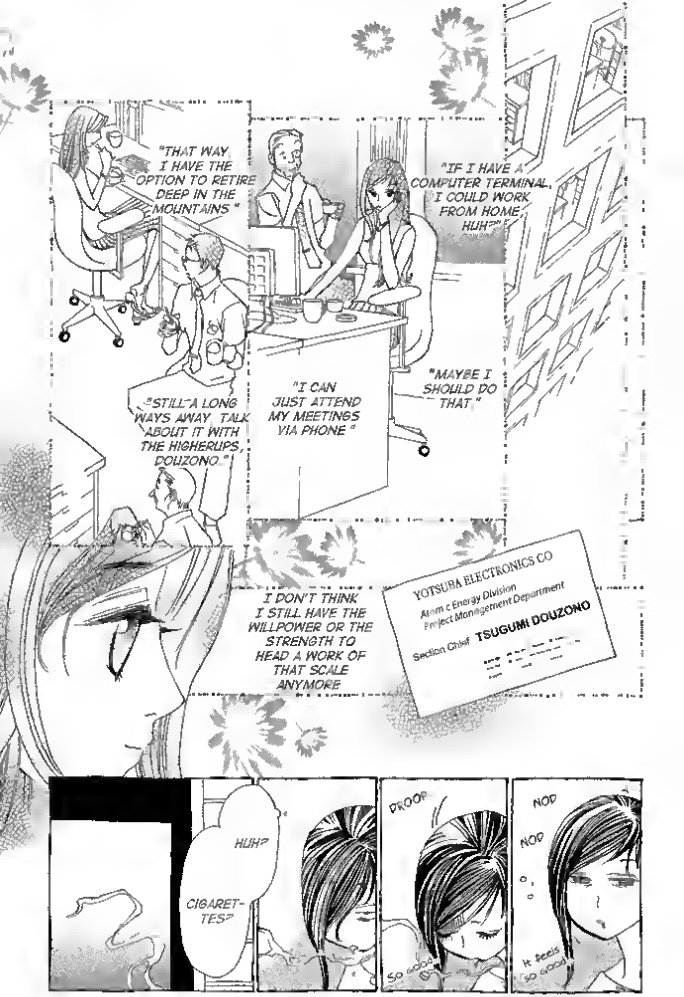

DID SOMEBODY UNLOCK IT AND ENTER DURING THE DAY?
THE LIGHTS ARE STILL ON IN THE ANNEX...
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
SCRUB
AH, BUT...
I STILL HAVE TO LOCK IT UP
Tch.
TURN THEM OFF BEFORE YOU LEAVE!
SCRUB
YA
WN
TOO LAZY TO BATHE
FORGET IT
I'M SLEEPY
TOO LAZY TO SPREAD OUT THE FUTON

AS A KID
GRANDMA USED TO SCARE US BY WARNING US THAT THE CONDUCTOR ON THE NIGHT TRAIN
IF WE STAYED UP LATE AT NIGHT
WOULD STUFF US INTO THE FREIGHT CAR AND TAKE US AWAY,
SHEESH IT WAS REALLY CREEPY
CLANK
CLUNK
CARGO?
CLANK
CLANK
KTUNK
KTANK
KTUNK
KTANK


SCRAPE
SCRAPE
Good morning!
Or more like good afternoon!


CRUNCH


MAYBE I'LL DROP BY THE MAIN OFFICE SOME-TIME NEXT WEEK
"I'll be staying here a little longer to clean up."
"Thanks to your assistance, I was able to make it through the entire funeral service."
HOW LONG ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE ALTAR UP?
I'll call mom to ask.


"THAT WAY, I HAVE THE OPTION TO RETIRE DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS."
"IF I HAVE A COMPUTER TERMINAL, I COULD WORK FROM HOME, HUH?"
"I CAN JUST ATTEND MY MEETINGS VIA PHONE."
"MAYBE I SHOULD DO THAT."
"STILL A LONG WAYS AWAY. TALK ABOUT IT WITH THE HIGHERUPS, DOUZONO."
I DON'T THINK I STILL HAVE THE WILLPOWER OR THE STRENGTH TO HEAD A WORK OF THAT SCALE ANYMORE
YOTSUBA ELECTRONICS CO
Atom c Energy Division
Project Management Department
Section Chief TSUGUMI DOUZONO
HUH?
CIGARETTES?
PROOF
So good
NOD
NOD
It feels so good

NICE WEATHER, ISN'T IT?
YES...
ONE OF OUR NEIGH-BORS?

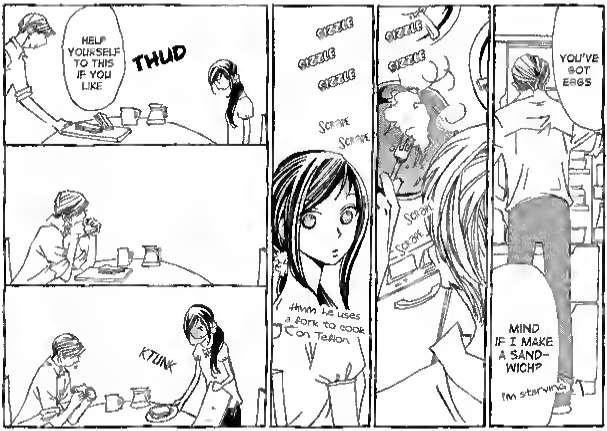
CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
CLOP
OH,
SURE
HELP YOUR-SELF
MAY I HAVE SOME COFFEE?
IT SMELLS AWFULLY GOOD
CHIIING
A FRIEND OF GRAND-MA'S?

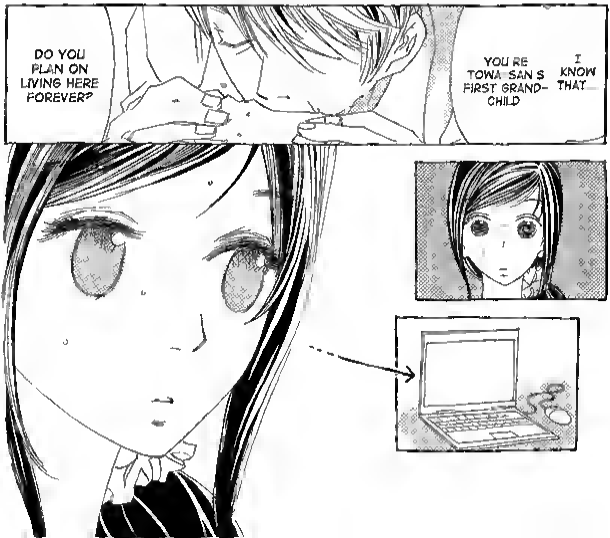
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
DECIDED TO MAKE TOMATO SAUCE.
Creak...
WOULD YOU LIKE A REFILL OF THE COFFEE?
SURE, THANKS
CLUNK

NO
I JUST CAME FROM TOKYO YESTERDAY
I DIDN'T KEEP UP MUCH WITH MY GRANDMOTHER'S FRIENDS...
DO YOU LIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
I WAS IN THE GUEST HOUSE LAST NIGHT
WELL
I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T
CLINK
YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING FROM YOUR GRANDMOTHER?
UM... WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?
KA-CLINK
JUN KAIEDA
HOW D YOU GET INSIDE WITHOUT KEYS?
CLINK
I'M
JUN KAIEDA
UP UNTIL SPRING, I WAS A PHILOSOPHY TEACHER IN TOKYO AT SHUKUJO WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

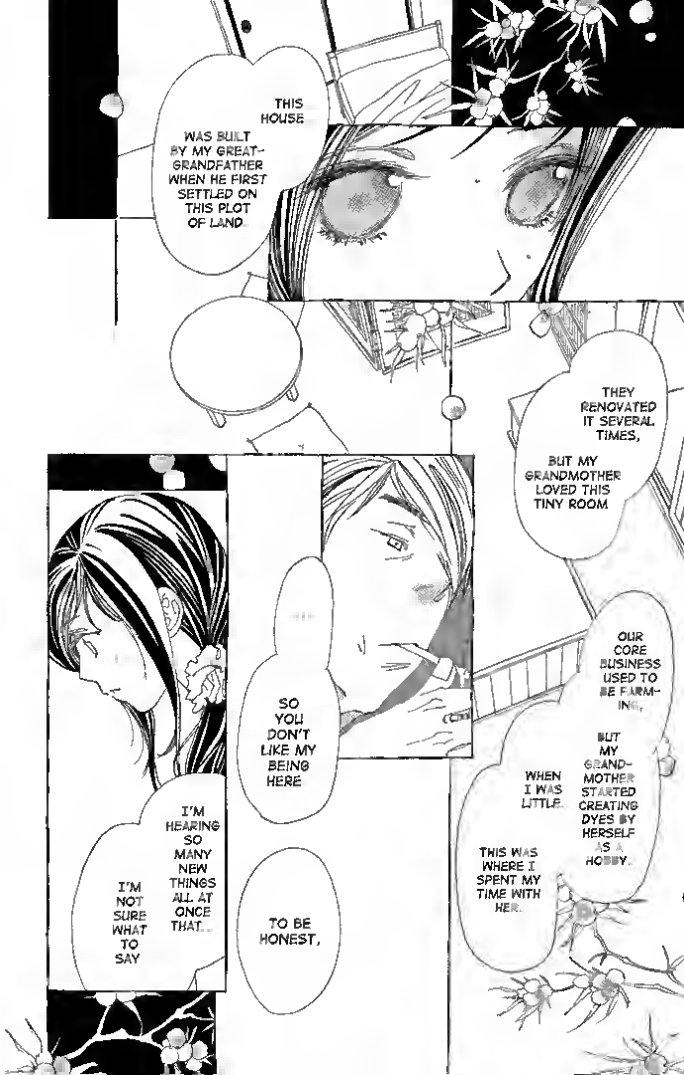
THEY WERE GIVEN TO ME AGES AGO
BY THE WAY, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE
SHE SAID I COULD USE THE PLACE WHENEVER I WANTED
UM...
WHAT?!
A FRIEND OF MINE WILL BE UNDERGOING THERAPY FOR AN ILLNESS DURING THE FALL, SO I WAS CALLED IN TO SUBSTITUTE
TRUTH IS, I ALSO WANTED TO KICK BACK AND RELAX THIS YEAR.
I ALMOST OPTED TO RENT AN APARTMENT IN THE CITY,
BUT WHEN I ASKED AROUND THEY TOLD ME IT'D TAKE ONLY 80 MINUTES TO TRAVEL BY BULLET TRAIN FROM HERE
SO I THOUGHT, OKAY, I'LL JUST COMMUTE. I DECIDED TO CALL THREE DAYS AGO BUT

NOT SURE HOW YOU'D PUT IT BUT
IN ANY CASE, SHE GAVE ME A KEY TO THE HOUSE
SO
YOU AND GRANDMA WERE
THIS WASN'T THE PLACE WHERE WE FIRST MET
AND I USED TO BE A STUDENT THERE
YOUR GRANDMOTHER USED TO COME AND TEACH ABOUT DYES AT A UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO
THAT'S ALL
FLAP


HELP YOURSELF TO THIS IF YOU LIKE
THUD
KTUNK
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Scrape
Scrape
Hmm he uses a fork to cook on Teflon
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Scrape
Scrape
Scrape
YOU'VE GOT EGGS
MIND IF I MAKE A SAND-WICH?
I'm starving

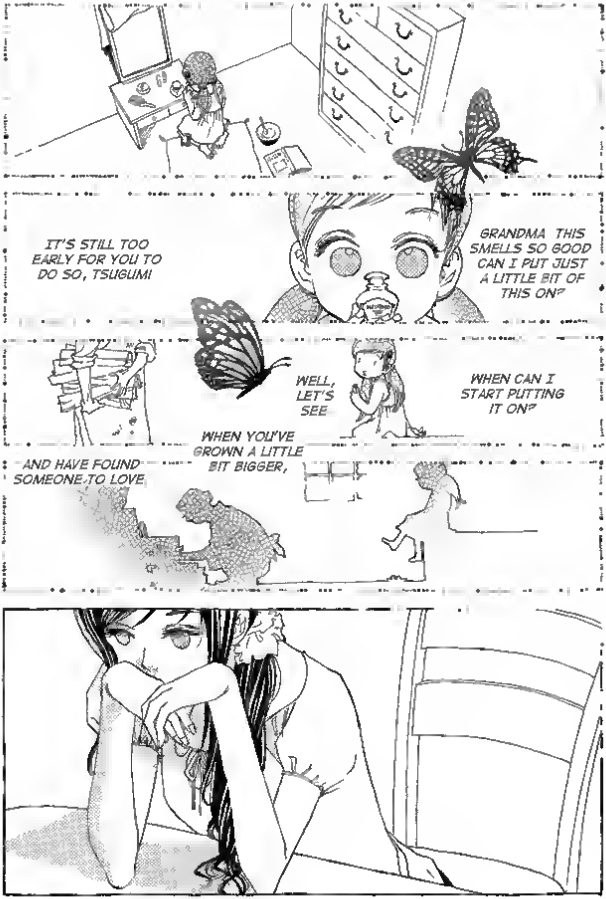

DO YOU PLAN ON LIVING HERE FOREVER?
YOU'RE TOWA-SAN'S FIRST GRAND-CHILD
I KNOW THAT...

I SEE
THEN I'LL BE SEEING YOU FOR A WHILE
I TEACH EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND FRIDAY
I CAN MAKE MY OWN MEALS IN THE ANNEX'S MINI KITCHEN, SO DON'T WORRY
CLUNK
...
I DO
UM
Lop
Lop
Lop
Lop
Lop
Lop
Wait


THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT BY MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER WHEN HE FIRST SETTLED ON THIS PLOT OF LAND.
THEY RENOVATED IT SEVERAL TIMES, BUT MY GRANDMOTHER LOVED THIS TINY ROOM.
OUR CORE BUSINESS USED TO BE FARMING.
BUT MY GRANDMOTHER STARTED CREATING DYES BY HERSELF AS A HOBBY.
WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
THIS WAS WHERE I SPENT MY TIME WITH HER.
SO YOU DON'T LIKE MY BEING HERE
TO BE HONEST,
I'M HEARING SO MANY NEW THINGS ALL AT ONCE THAT...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY

The vegetables seem cheap
WONDER WHAT I'LL MAKE FOR DINNER...
BY THE WAY IS THE FARMER'S CO-OP NEAR THE STATION THE ONLY PLACE TO BUY GROCERIES?
WELL SAID
I'LL HAVE TO PASS ON THAT SORT OF MAN
IS IT TRUE THAT A WOMAN LIKE YOU FEELS MORE SECURE HAVING A MAN AROUND, EVEN IF HE'S ONLY HERE IN FORM?
GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT
THIS IS JUST A WILD GUESS
Um Um
Dizzy
Dizzy
Dizzy
CONTINUE
AM I WRONG?
...
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAY SHE GAVE YOU THE KEYS, THEN I'M IN THE EXACT SAME SITUATION
YOU'RE ONLY HER GRANDCHILD, SO YOU CAN'T CLAIM THIS HOUSE JUST YET

I SHOULD GO WITH MY ELECTRONIC MOSQUITO REPELLANT
...
Lop
Lop
Lop
Lop
Lop
Lop
WELL,
ONCE SOMEONE OFFICIALLY OWNS THE PLACE,
I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE
HER GRAVE SITE IS ABOVE THE BUS STOP, RIGHT?


IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR YOU TO DO SO, TSUGUMI
GRANDMA THIS SMELLS SO GOOD CAN I PUT JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THIS ON?
WELL, LET'S SEE
WHEN CAN I START PUTTING IT ON?
WHEN YOU'VE GROWN A LITTLE BIT BIGGER,
AND HAVE FOUND SOMEONE TO LOVE

GRANDMA
TEACHER

SHE SAID THAT TSUGUMI RESEMBLED HER,
BUT THEY DON'T LOOK ANYTHING ALIKE
NOT ONE BIT.
FISH SAUSAGES
GREEN BEAN TEMPURA
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
南紀新聞
OH,
AGEGAMI NEWSPAPER

...
HE'S FARSIGHTED

NOW,
TELL ME,
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?